

Poetry.

THE BURDEN.

To every one on earth
God gives a burden to be carried down
The road that lies between the cross and crown ;
No lot is wholly free ;
He giveth one to thee.

Some carry it aloft,
Open and visible to any eyes ;
And all may see its form, and weight, and size ;
Some hide it in their breast,
And deem it thus unguessed.

Thy burden is God's gift,
And it will make the bearer calm and strong ;
Yet, lest it press too heavily and long,
He says, "Cast it on Me,
And it shall easy be."

And those who heed His voice,
And seek to give it back in trustful prayer,
Have quiet hearts that never can despair ;
And hope lights up the way
Upon the darkest day.

Take thou thy burden thus
Into thy hands and lay it at His feet,
And whether it be sorrow or defeat,
Or pain, or sin, or care,
Oh, leave it calmly there.

It is the only load
That crushes out the life and light of heaven ;
But, borne with Him, the soul, restored, forgiven,
Sings out through all the days
Her joy and God's high praise.

—Marianne Farningham.

Contributions.

THE MISSION WORK.

J. D. M'FADEN.

I rejoiced to read the pointed article by brother Geo. Copp. That is just the kind of writing needed on the subject of missions, and I am glad it is coming. Come oftener and hit harder, and let the party hurt do the crying—praying.

I know the church proper is interested along this line. At the National Convention last year I talked upon the subject and the response was immediate and earnest, the pulse of the church beat regular and showed a healthy condition. After services a brother preacher whose ability is above the average, and whose courage is well-known, and has been tried, expressed himself as being in favor of the work and was ready to go. There are two men ready, one of them lives in Nebraska.

I desire to be plain on this subject. First. Where is the trouble? Is it in the church? I do not believe it is. I do honestly believe the church not only has the means, but is ready to use it. Where then is the trouble. It is not in the motive and desires of the church, but it is in some of her methods. Wrong methods may hinder the unfolding of the purest

motives. We need to change some of our methods, and to change them speedily, especially is this so along mission lines.

The wheels of the engine need to be properly connected before the machine will do the work for which it was built, and the organizations of the church need to be brought into right combination before the church can do the work for which she was organized. There should be a General Mission Board, and working through district, state, etc., home and foreign, can make a success of what is now but scattered efforts. Let us stop playing at mission and do the work. If the church is worth sustaining it is worth extending.

There is another thing. Brethren should stop pouring cold water on a good work because there are some lines of work incomplete. There are people who will give to missions, home and foreign that will not touch the college. You know that just as well as I do, and while you work among those that want to help the college, I will work among those that want to help missions. Why should I stop you? Why then should you stop me? See, each can do this work and both help the cause of humanity, one in the head and the other in the spirit.

Look out on the world around us, the condition of humanity, the breaking up of society, the necessity of help.

The activity of worldly organizations, the indifference of denominations, the wails of the persecuted, the prayers of the suffering. If there ever was a time when the world needed help it is now. If there ever was a time when the Bible should be applied to humanity it is now. If there ever was a time when preachers should make known Christ it is now. If there ever was a time when the church of Christ should be submissive to the spirit, it is now. If there ever was a time when trifling questions and hair-splitting theories should be laid aside, it is now.

Let narrowness and exclusiveness, and selfishness, and jealousy, and bigotry die the death, and men be resurrected. Let the Spirit of God work for salvation and Christ be all and in all.

CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE CONVENTION.

JACOB C. CASSEL.

Being a reader of the Christian Alliance, the organ of the organization known by that name, I have frequently read accounts of the marvelous Conventions which are held by the Alliance from time to time throughout the country. When I learned that there was to be a Convention at Harrisburg, in this state, I at once determined to attend it and observe for myself the

wonderful events that transpire at those gatherings. The Convention opened on the 10th of July and lasted ten days. Notwithstanding great anticipations the meeting proved a revelation to me; and not to me only but to others that were with me. Heretofore I never deemed it possible for men to have such an earnest, such a foretaste of heaven in this sinful world. There were present men and women of many different denominations, from all parts of the State, from different parts of the United States, from China, from India, from the Congo and the Sudan in Africa and yet not the least ripple of difference manifested; not a jar, no friction, not a frown nor a complaint; all this peace and order without any rule or law to govern anything except the "Golden Rule" or law of love.

There were three sessions every day lasting from two to three hours each, and yet not one public business session, the whole time devoted to the study of God's word and work. Foreign missions occupied a great part of the time; as already stated China, India and Africa were represented by missionaries from their respective fields; the awful heart-rending accounts they gave of the condition of the heathen worlds, together with the development of the awful responsibility of Christian men and women concerning the spreading of the Gospel over the whole world, made such a marked impression that the whole Convention was at times a fountain of tears. The Holy Ghost was present in power, and moved many of those present to surrender soul, body and substance to the Lord; parents surrendered their children, and children forsook their parents to go to foreign fields; when the opportunity was given to express a willingness to go, or let go, there were at least forty that bowed at the missionary altar and thereby signified their willingness to sacrifice all for God and humanity. When opportunity was given to contribute to the cause of foreign missions fully nine thousand dollars was given, or pledged in a very short time, by an audience of probably three hundred people.

The Alliance teaches a four-fold Gospel, viz., Christ our Saviour, sanctifier, healer, and coming Lord. Many of those present use no physician save Jesus, and no medicine save the Holy Spirit; some testified to marvelous healings by Divine power. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the all-pervading theme of the Alliance; in Him every other grace, and power is comprehended. Many stand aloof, and others reject the Alliance altogether because of her claims of spiritual power, which carnal professors are so ready to relegate to the primitive church, but not